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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 27 Dec 1948

SUBJECT Amphibious Exercises on
the Island of Usedom

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

1. Amphibious exercises by Soviet troops took place on the south coast of the island of Usedom in the Kleinen Haff on 26-27 August 1948. These exercises began in the early morning of 26 August 1948, and at 0900 hours on 27 August 1948, and were finished by 1200 hours. The landings were carried out between the villages of Gamminke and Bossin. The beach between these two villages and all the roads running off the beach towards Swinemünde were closed by Soviet troops on both days.
2. On 27 August 1948 aircraft also took part. There were three flights at intervals of one hour by twin-engined aircraft. Two flights consisted of twenty-eight aircraft and one of twenty-four which arrived from the south-east and flew off in a north-westerly direction. At the same time several fast single-engined aircraft, presumably fighters, circled at great height.
3. About twenty motorboats and pinnaces of different sizes and types took part in the landing exercises. Each motorboat had three or four landing craft in tow. These latter were about 12 meters long, open and primitively constructed with wooden benches. Each boat carried about twenty-five men and weapons. Soviet troops were also observed on the motorboats.
4. The troops were equipped with automatic carbines. Machine guns and ten light anti-tank guns of about 40-mm. caliber with rubber-tired wheels and armored shields were also observed. Each anti-tank gun had an ammunition limber mounted on two rubber-tired wheels.
5. The landings took about one hour. The beach is very flat and consequently the boats were unloaded about 300 to 500 meters off the shore. The troops disembarked into the water and then loaded the guns and equipment onto rafts which they pulled to the beach. The rafts were made from light tree trunks tied together and were carried on the bows of the landing craft while at sea.
6. After the landing, the troops took up positions on the road Usedom-Swinemünde. They wore Soviet Army uniforms and steel helmets but were not carrying packs. There were a few Soviet naval officers on the motorboats.

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